

INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF
5 Jan 2001

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program – Guatemala

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities in Guatemala to assist in selection and preparation of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact incumbent FAO trainees and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length: 13 Months.

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Dates: December through December of the following year, or June through the following June.

(3) Program Description: Up to four FAOs conduct ICT in Guatemala each year. FAOs will attend the 6-month-long Guatemalan Army Combined Arms Advanced Course at the Center of Military Studies. The course runs twice a year beginning in January and June/July. FAOs experience firsthand the Guatemalan Army's doctrine and how it trains its officers to become staff officers.

(a) FAOs conduct regional travel before, during and after completion of the courses.

(b) Language Instruction Availability: FAOs are immersed in the language for the duration of their course.

(4) Prerequisites: CPT/MAJ; branch immaterial; Spanish DLPT 2/2.

b. POVs: Each FAO is authorized shipment of one POV. Due to long shipment times (approximately 3 months). FAOs should ship early or consider purchasing a used vehicle in country.

c. Household Goods: FAOs are authorized full JFTR. Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAOs for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage.

d. Housing: Officer receives Overseas Housing Allowance (OHA) and must arrange for privately leased housing. Before signing a lease, FAOs must ensure housing meets all Embassy requirements. Most landlords require six months rent in advance. It is not recommended to pay more than that amount to avoid any difficulties

if a curtailment of tour arises. You can request an advance in housing pay to cover this expense.

e. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical: The Embassy Nurse Office provides minor medical care (shots, school sports physicals, etc.). During the military course, FAOs can use the aid station located at the school. The nurse has an updated list of local approved health and dental care providers and emergency care facilities. Any required long term treatment or major surgery can be conducted locally. Through an agreement with the Guatemalan military, the Centro Medico Militar (Military Medical Center) may be used by U.S. military personnel.

(2) Dependent Schooling: Currently, two DOD approved schools provide for the educational needs of FAO families. These are the Colegio Maya and the American Equity School. They provide educational services in grades K through 12. Tuition is paid by DODDS. The OPSCO is the point of contact for school registration and payment coordination.

(3) PX/Commissary: Military personnel are eligible to receive Commissary goods from Charleston monthly. Orders are submitted to MILGRP and arrive by military plane. The Embassy has a small Commissary that charges a fully refundable membership fee of \$180 for individuals and \$365 for families. Local grocery stores carry a wide variety of goods but prices are higher than in the U.S. and some specialty items may not be available. PX items can be obtained through the AAFES catalog service from Charleston.

(4) APO: A full service APO is available at the Embassy. Normal postal regulations for size and weight apply.

f. Rating Chain:

Rater: AARMA
Senior Rater: ARMA

g. Address:

(1) Mail:
Rank, Name
USEMB/DAO
Unit 3310
APO AA 34024

(2) Message: USDAO GUATEMALA CITY GT

H. Phone #: DAO 011-502-331-7804

3. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

a. Bring Advanced Course, CAS3, and CGSC materials. ICT provides a good opportunity to complete them and they also serve as valuable references while attending school.

b. FAOs should bring complete array of military uniforms.

c. FAOs will need a computer for the Combined Arms Advanced Course, preferably a laptop since they will carry it to class regularly.

d. Regional Travel Priorities:

- (1) Priority one: Mexico, Colombia
- (2) Priority two: Central America
- (3) Priority three: South America

LTC Rodriguez
(703) 614-1766
DSN 224-1766
Warren.hoy@hqda.army.mil